



February 19, 2025

The Honorable Tom Umberg
 Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
 1020 N Street, Room 6530
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 29 (Laird) – Oppose Unless Amended

Dear Senator Umberg,

The organizations listed above represent a diverse group of health care providers, facilities and organizations that are opposed to SB 29 unless it is amended to recognize the monumental passage of AB 35 (Assemblymember Reyes and Senator Umberg) in 2022 to modernize the MICRA statute.

In 2021, SB 447 (Laird) was passed to allow heirs of injured individuals to recover non-economic damages for pain and suffering if the injured individual passes away before their lawsuit is settled. Among other things, the author and sponsor argued in 2021 that SB 447 was necessary due to the courts being slow to settle cases thanks to the pandemic and a sunset was amended into the bill before the Legislature sent the bill to the Governor. **It is important to note that medical malpractice claims are not exempt from SB 447.** SB 29 removes the sunset from the law that was passed and extends it into perpetuity.

In 2022, representatives from our organizations agreed to significant reforms to the MICRA statute. We were keenly aware of SB 447's 2026 sunset and we agreed to appropriate increases in AB 35 with that understanding.

Unfortunately, SB 29 conflicts with the spirit and language of the 2022 updates to modernize MICRA so our organizations are opposed to SB 29 unless amended.

Sincerely,



Shari McHugh
Policy Advocate
Californians Allied for Patient Protection
on behalf of

Association of California Healthcare Districts
BETA Healthcare Group
California Academy of Physician Associates
California Association for Nurse Practitioners
California Association of Health Facilities
California Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons
California Hospital Association
California Medical Association
California Orthopaedic Association

California Pharmacists Association
California Society of Anesthesiologists
California State Association of Psychiatrists
Central Valley Health Network
Children's Specialty Care Coalition
LeadingAge California
Medical Insurance Exchange of California
Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California
The Doctors Company
The Mutual
Vituity

cc: Senator John Laird, Author
Members, Senate Judiciary Committee
Margie Estrada, Chief Consultant, Senate Judiciary Committee